(3.)

THE COVENANT OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH,

MEETING TOGETHER IN

UNION CHAPEL,

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M.DCC.LXXXVI.

THE

COVENANT, &c.

I. WE do mutually agree (through the Strength of divine Grace) to walk together in one Body, and to love one another (Eph. v. 2.) and to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace, Eph. iv. 3.

II. That we will endeavour to avoid all Cauſes of Diviſion, Rom. xvi. 17.

III. That we will in Church Affairs have no Reſpect of Perſons (James ii. 9.) but condeſcend to Men of low Eſtate, for their Uſe and Edification in the Lord, Rom. xii. 16.

IV. That

IV. That we will ſympathiſe with each other in every Condition (Heb. xiii. 3.) and endeavour to bear one another's Burdens, and ſo anſwer the End of our near Relation, Gall. vi. 2.

V. That we will ſeparate ourſelves from the World, ſo as to have no Fellowſhip with the unfruitful Works of Darkneſs, Eph. v. 11.

VI. That we will bear and forbear with one another's Infirmities, in much Mercy, Kindneſs, Humbleneſs of Mind, Meekneſs, and Long-ſuffering, Col. iii. 12, 13.

VII. That we will not raiſe up the Weakneſs of any Member to Perſons *without* the Church, or *within*, unleſs it be according to Chriſt's Rule, Matt. xviii. 15, 16, 17.

VIII. We do promiſe to keep the Affairs of this Church entire, without divulging them to any who are not of this particular Body, unleſs Circumſtances ſhall render it neceſſary: This Secreſy in a Church perfectly

fectly agrees with the Idea of a Garden enclosed, unto which a Church of Christ is compared (Canticles iv. 12.) This corresponds with (Prov. xi. 13.) A Tale-bearer revealeth Secrets, but he that is of a faithful Spirit concealeth the Matter.

IX. That according to our Abilities we will freely communicate of our temporal Things to the Cause of the Redeemer, particularly to him who is our stated Minister or Pastor; for we believe that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel, 1 Cor. ix. 14.

X. That we will endeavour to watch over one another's Conversation for Good, and not for each other's Halting, giving proper Warnings in Case of disorderly walking, 1 Thess. v. 14.

XI. That we will consider the Law of God as our Rule of Life, and esteem it our Duty and Privilege to obey its divine Precepts, Rom. vii. 25.

XII. That

XII. That we will not forſake the aſſembling of ourſelves together as the Manner of ſome is, but attend all the Meetings, appointed by this Church as often as convenient, Heb. x. 25.

XIII. That we will make Conſcience of praying in our Families, joining therewith the reading of God's Word, when Time and Circumſtances ſhall permit, 1 Theſſ. v. 17. John v. 39.

XIV. That we will pray for our Miniſter, for each other, and for the Soul-proſperity of all Saints, Eph. vi. 18.

XV. That we will highly eſteem our Miniſter for his Work Sake, and ſubmit to him, as far as it is conſiſtent with the Word of God, 1 Theſſ. v. 13. Heb. xiii. 17.

XVI. That we will make Conſcience of viſiting the Sick, as we have Opportunity; but that the Elders, or Deacons of the Church, ſhall be principally looked to for is Buſineſs, as in St. James v. 14. Is any ſick,

ſick, let him call for the Elders of the Church, and let *them* pray over them.

XVII. That if any of our Brethren or Siſters are reduced to Want we will willingly communicate to their aſſiſtance, as is convenient for *us*, and as *their* Neceſſities ſhall require, Heb. xiii. 16.

Laſtly, That we will admit none to be incorporated into this Church, unleſs he, ſhe, or they, do give a Relation of their Experience, and ſuch Experience be approved of by the Majority of the Members preſent; with this ſhall be connected a good Report of their moral Conduct.

All theſe Rules (being ſcriptural) we intend (through Grace) ſtrictly to abide by and practiſe, that as a Church, we may be truly happy both in this World and to all Eternity. To this End may the Lord give us divine Aſſiſtance for Chriſt's Sake. *Amen.*

FINIS.